

National pay rates for all...

# No more teaching on the cheap

**O**n Thursday 5 February the UCU members at eleven colleges around the country will be on strike to demand pay justice.

The managements of all eleven colleges have refused to implement the national agreement on pay which was introduced in 2003-05 after a long campaign of industrial action.

In one of the colleges involved in action it means that the most a well experienced qualified lecturer can earn is £7,000 below the national rate.

The one day strike must be the beginning of a campaign of action that stops this injustice. The whole union needs to get behind the strikes to help make sure they win.

We need to point to the magnificent 70% vote for strike action in the eleven colleges as clear proof that our members are not going to tolerate attacks on pay, jobs or conditions because there is a financial crisis.

Lecturers in Further Education are the only public service workers treated this way. FE employers have used the



Pickets at Croydon FE college last summer

powers given them by the Tory government in 1993 to attack both our pay levels and our working conditions.

The result has been to see both get worse. Up to 1993 our pay had always been higher than that of school teachers. That changed very quickly because the effect of each college having the power to act independently of national negotiations meant that pay rates were quickly pushed down for all of us, stronger branches as well as weaker.

The pay campaigns of the last ten years have closed the gap to some degree but we will always be weakened as long as whatever we fight for and accept nationally is not automatically implemented in all colleges. And in the HE

sector many employers are threatening to do the same. That is why the colleges who are on strike are striking for the whole of the union.

Activists in every branch of the union need to start campaigning now for solidarity with the striking colleges on 5 February. That means sending messages of support, organising delegations to picket lines and holding collections for the strikers.

More than that, it means we must fight now to build the campaign of action so that it includes every college who has not implemented the full 8 point scale with the full national rates.

A successful campaign can strike a hammer blow at the employers' national divide and rule strategy.

## What you can do

- Get your branch to send messages of support to the striking branches
- Where possible, organise a delegation to the nearest picket line on 5 February
- Hold a collection in your branch
- If your branch has not got the full 2003-05 deal then push for it to be balloted quickly

### Please send messages of support to all these disputes

College of North West London:  
indro.sen@cnwl.ac.uk

Croydon College:  
HILLM@croydon.ac.uk

Greenwich College: markw@gcc.ac.uk

Askham Bryan College:  
jmm@askham-bryan.ac.uk

Sandwell College:  
maureen.henry-johnson@sandwell.ac.uk

Evesham College:  
sjervis@evesham.ac.uk

Sussex Downs College:  
marcus.abel@sussexdowns.ac.uk

Nelson and Colne College:  
c.goddard@nelson.ac.uk

Doncaster College:  
rodney.challis@don.ac.uk

Dearne Valley College:  
jbland@dearne-coll.ac.uk

Rotherham College:  
cstothard@rotherham.ac.uk

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Fill in the form below and send it  
c/o 17 Barfield Road, Leytonstone, E11 3AF  
Or join online at [www.uculeft.org](http://www.uculeft.org)

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